

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cable tray for use in a cable tray system in which at least two cable trays are connected together with at least one fastener, the cable tray comprising:

a cable support assembly having a first end and a second end a weight-bearing base portion and a plurality of sidewalls, the sidewalls being connected to longitudinal edges of the base portion and extending in a common direction perpendicular to the base portion, the base portion defining a plurality of open ends of the cable support assembly; and

a connector receiving member [[integrally]] connected to the base portion of the cable support assembly proximate a first open end of the cable support assembly, the connector receiving member including two parallel sections separated by a space and extending transversely across at least part of a width of the base portion, the two parallel sections of the connector receiving member being arranged to at least receive at least a portion of a first fastener in the space therebetween; and

a connector receiving element integrally connected to the base portion of first end of the cable support assembly, the connector receiving element adapted to be placed in registry with the corresponding connector receiving member from an adjacent tray so that a fastener may be placed therein.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 1, wherein at least one of the two parallel sections of the connector receiving member includes an insulated portion and an electrically conductive portion, and wherein the electrically conductive portion is arranged to engage the portion of the first fastener is electrically conductive.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 1, wherein the fastener comprises a carriage bolt and a nut two parallel sections of the connector receiving member include wires

that are separated so as to receive and snugly engage a head of a carriage bolt such that rotation of the carriage bolt is prevented during threading of a nut onto the carriage bolt.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 1, ~~wherein the cable tray further comprises a plurality of longitudinal wires interconnected with a plurality of transverse wires comprising:~~

a connector receiving element connected to the base portion of the cable support assembly proximate a second open end of the cable support assembly, the connector receiving element including two parallel sections separated by a space and extending longitudinally beyond the second open end of the cable support assembly, the two parallel sections of the connector receiving element being arranged to at least receive at least a portion of a second fastener therebetween.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 4, ~~wherein the connector receiving element is positioned directly across from the connector receiving member along a length of the base portion of the cable support assembly +wherein the cable tray includes a weight bearing assembly and at least one sidewall.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 4,[[5]] wherein the ~~two parallel wires of the at least one connector receiving element further includes a loop member interconnecting common ends of the two parallel sections of the connector receiving element, such that the connector receiving element forms a looping element that extends beyond the second open end of the cable support assembly is fixedly attached to the weight bearing assembly of the cable tray and at least one connector receiving element is fixedly attached to at least one sidewall of the cable tray.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 4,[[1]] ~~further comprising a second wherein the connector receiving element connected to the base portion of the cable support assembly proximate the first open end of the cable support assembly, the second connector receiving element including two parallel sections separated by a space and extending~~

longitudinally beyond the first open end of the cable support assembly, the two parallel sections of the second connector receiving element being arranged to at least receive at least a portion of a third fastener therebetween comprises an elongated ellipse with at least two generally parallel straight sections each having a first end and a second end connected on at least the first end to a closed member.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 4,[[7]] wherein the connector receiving element includes at least one J-shaped hook.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 7,[[1]] wherein the second connector receiving element is positioned directly across from the connector receiving member along the width of the base portion of the cable support assembly and is further positioned diagonally across from the connector receiving element along a length of the base portion of attached on the exterior of the cable support tray assembly.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 1,[[4]] wherein the connector receiving member comprises at least two parallel transverse wires defining a space therebetween on at least one end of the cable support assembly further comprising:

a connector receiving element connected to a sidewall of the cable support assembly proximate one of the first open end and a second open end of the cable support assembly, the connector receiving element including two parallel sections separated by a space and extending longitudinally beyond the first open end or the second open end of the cable support assembly, the two parallel sections of the connector receiving element being arranged to at least receive at least a portion of a second fastener therebetween.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The cable tray of claim 4,[[1]] wherein further comprising at least one of the two parallel sections of the connector receiving element includes an insulated portion and an electrically conductive portion, and wherein the electrically conductive portion is arranged to engage the portion of the second fastener anti-friction roller rotatably attached to at least one transverse wire.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A cable tray connecting system comprising:

a first cable tray including comprising a first cable support assembly and a connector receiving member, the first cable support assembly having a weight-bearing base portion and a plurality of sidewalls, the sidewalls of the first cable support assembly being connected to longitudinal edges of the base portion of the first cable support assembly and extending in a common direction perpendicular to the base portion of the first cable support assembly, the base portion of the first cable support assembly defining a plurality of open ends of the first cable support assembly a first end and a second end, the [[a]] connector receiving member being integrally connected to at least one of the base portion and a sidewall of the first cable support assembly proximate an open end of the first cable support assembly, the connector receiving member including two parallel wire sections separated by a space and extending transversely across at least part of a width of the base portion or the sidewall of the first cable support assembly and a connector receiving element integrally connected to the first end of the cable support assembly, wherein the connector receiving member is adapted to be placed in registry with a corresponding connector receiving member from an adjacent tray;

a second cable tray including further comprising a second cable support assembly and a connector receiving element, the second cable support assembly having a weight-bearing base portion and a plurality of sidewalls, the sidewalls of the second cable support assembly being connected to longitudinal edges of the base portion of the second cable support assembly and extending in a common direction perpendicular to the base portion of the second cable support assembly, the base portion of the second cable support assembly defining a plurality of open ends of the second cable support assembly a first end and a second end, the [[a]] connector receiving element being member integrally connected to at least one of the base portion and a sidewall of the second cable support assembly, and a connector receiving element integrally connected to the first end of the cable support assembly, wherein the connector receiving member is adapted to be placed in registry with a corresponding connector receiving member from an adjacent tray, proximate an open end of the second cable support assembly, the connector receiving element including two parallel wire sections separated by a space and extending longitudinally beyond the open end of the second cable support assembly, wherein the space between the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving element of the second

cable tray overlaps the space between the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving member of the first cable tray when the second cable tray is positioned adjacent the first cable tray; and

a an electrically conductive fastener adapted to pass that is passed through the connector receiving member element of the first cable tray and the connector receiving element member of the second cable tray to secure the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving element to the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving member fixedly connect the adjacent trays.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The cable tray connecting system of claim 12, [[11]] wherein at least one of the first cable support assembly and the second cable support assembly is further comprises a pre-formed into a shape having at least one interior angle, wherein said shape allows for intersection of a plurality of cable trays at angles other than 180 degrees.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The cable tray connecting system of claim 12, [[13]] wherein at least one of the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving member includes an insulated portion and an electrically conductive portion, wherein at least one of the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving member includes an insulated portion and an electrically conductive portion, and wherein the electrically conductive portion of the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving member engages the electrically conductive portion of the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving element when the connector receiving member is secured to the connector receiving element by the fastener, thereby providing electrical continuity between the first cable tray and the second cable tray said pre-formed shape is an L-shape.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The cable tray connecting system of claim 14, [[13]] wherein the electrically conductive portion of the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving member and the electrically conductive portion of the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving element include a conductive, non-corrosive coating, and wherein the insulated portion of the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving member and the insulated portion of

the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving element include an electrically non-conductive coating said pre-formed shape is a T-shape.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The cable tray ~~connecting~~ system of claim 12, [[13]] wherein the fastener comprises a carriage bolt and a nut and wherein the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving member are separated so as to receive and snugly engage a head of the carriage bolt such that rotation of the carriage bolt is prevented during threading of the nut onto the carriage bolt ~~said pre-formed shape is a cruciform shape.~~

Claim 17 (currently amended): The cable tray ~~connecting~~ system of claim 12, [[13]] wherein the fastener comprises a carriage bolt and a nut and wherein the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving element are separated so as to receive and snugly engage a head of the carriage bolt such that rotation of the carriage bolt is prevented during threading of the nut onto the carriage bolt ~~said interior angle is rounded.~~

Claim 18 (currently amended): The cable tray ~~connecting~~ system of claim 12, [[13]] wherein the fastener is electrically conductive ~~pre-formed shape further comprises a first end and second end, wherein said first end has a different width than said second end.~~

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A method for surface treating a cable tray which comprises

- providing a cable tray;
- fixedly attaching at least one connector receiving element to the cable tray;
- providing a first mask blank to cover at least a portion of the at least one connector receiving element;
- providing a second mask blank to cover at least a portion of the cable tray at a position where the at least a portion of the cable tray that is masked by the second mask blank will be in registry with a connector receiving element on an adjacent cable tray;
- placing a surface treatment on an unmasked portion of the cable tray that will render said uncovered portion non-electrically conductive; and
- removing the mask blanks.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method for surface treating a cable tray of claim 19 wherein the treatment comprises painting.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method for surface treating a cable tray of claim 19 wherein the treatment comprises powder coating.

Claim 22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (new): A cable tray for use in a cable tray system in which at least two cable trays are connected together with at least one fastener, the cable tray comprising:

a cable support assembly having a weight-bearing base portion and a plurality of sidewalls, the sidewalls being connected to longitudinal edges of the base portion and extending in a common direction perpendicular to the base portion, the base portion defining a plurality of open ends of the cable support assembly; and

a connector receiving member integrated into a sidewall of the cable support assembly proximate an open end of the cable support assembly, the connector receiving member including two parallel sections separated by a space and extending transversely across at least part of a width of the sidewall, the two parallel sections of the connector receiving member being arranged to at least receive at least a portion of a fastener in the space therebetween.

Claim 25 (new): The cable tray of claim 24, wherein at least one of the two parallel sections of the connector receiving member includes an insulated portion and an electrically conductive portion, and wherein the electrically conductive portion is arranged to engage the portion of the fastener.

Claim 26 (new): A cable tray for use in a cable tray system in which at least two cable trays are connected together with at least one fastener, the cable tray comprising:

a cable support assembly having a weight-bearing base portion and a plurality of sidewalls, the sidewalls being connected to longitudinal edges of the base portion and extending in a common direction perpendicular to the base portion, the base portion defining a plurality of open ends of the cable support assembly; and

a connector receiving element connected to at least one of the base portion and a sidewall of the cable support assembly proximate an open end of the cable support assembly, the connector receiving element including two parallel sections separated by a space and extending longitudinally beyond the open end of the cable support assembly, the two parallel sections of the connector receiving element being arranged to at least receive at least a portion of a fastener in the space therebetween.

Claim 27 (new): The cable tray of claim 26, wherein the connector receiving element further includes an arched member interconnecting common ends of the two parallel sections of the connector receiving element, such that the connector receiving element forms a looping element that extends beyond the open end of the cable support assembly, wherein the loop member and at least one of the two parallel sections of the connector receiving element include respective electrically conductive portions that are arranged to engage the fastener.

Claim 28 (new): The cable tray system of claim 12, wherein the connector receiving member of the first cable tray is integrated into the base portion or the sidewall of the first cable support assembly.

Claim 29 (new): A cable tray system comprising:

a first cable tray including a first cable support assembly and a connector receiving member, the first cable support assembly having a weight-bearing base portion and a plurality of sidewalls, the sidewalls of the first cable support assembly being connected to longitudinal edges of the base portion of the first cable support assembly and extending in a common direction perpendicular to the base portion of the first cable support assembly, the base portion of the first

cable support assembly defining a plurality of open ends of the first cable support assembly, the connector receiving member being connected to at least one of the base portion and a sidewall of the first cable support assembly proximate an open end of the first cable support assembly, the connector receiving member including an insulated portion and an electrically conductive, contact portion, wherein the electrically conductive, contact portion of the connector receiving member defines an open space therein;

a second cable tray including a second cable support assembly and a connector receiving element, the second cable support assembly having a weight-bearing base portion and a plurality of sidewalls, the sidewalls of the second cable support assembly being connected to longitudinal edges of the base portion of the second cable support assembly and extending in a common direction perpendicular to the base portion of the second cable support assembly, the base portion of the second cable support assembly defining a plurality of open ends of the second cable support assembly, the connector receiving element being connected to at least one of the base portion and a sidewall of the second cable support assembly proximate an open end of the second cable support assembly, the connector receiving element including an insulated portion and an electrically conductive, contact portion, the electrically conductive, contact portion of the connector receiving element defining an open space therein, wherein the electrically conductive, contact portion of the connector receiving element of the second cable tray overlaps the electrically conductive, contact portion of the connector receiving member of the first cable tray when the first cable tray and the second cable tray are positioned adjacent one another; and

a fastener adapted to pass through the open space defined by the connector receiving member of the first cable tray and the open space defined by the connector receiving element of the second cable tray to secure the electrically conductive, contact portion of the connector receiving member of the first cable tray to the electrically conductive, contact portion of the connector receiving element of the second cable tray, thereby providing electrical continuity between the first cable tray and the second cable tray.

Claim 30 (new): The cable tray system of claim 29, wherein the insulated portion of the connector receiving member of the first cable tray comprises a non-conductive covering disposed upon a first conductive material and is substantially larger than the electrically conductive, contact portion of the connector receiving member, wherein the insulated portion of the connector receiving element of the second cable tray comprises a non-conductive covering disposed upon a second conductive material and is substantially larger than the electrically conductive, contact portion of the connector receiving element, and wherein the insulated portions of the connector receiving member and the connector receiving element isolate the first conductive material and the second conductive material from cables passed through the first cable tray and the second cable tray.